

## **ITD/ACEC IDAHO MATERIALS LIAISON COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING**

**September 13, 2006**

#### **Subcommittee Reports**

##### Structural/Geotechnical subcommittee

There was no subcommittee activity to report.

##### Retaining Walls/Roadway Design subcommittee

Wall drawings are often incomplete or unclear. Specific information that will help designers should be on the plans. Several consultants and vendors have expressed an interest in meeting to create a checklist for drawings. Potential participants will be emailed to set a meeting date.

#### **Open discussion of IT issues affecting electronic submission of phase reports**

People should call Hq Materials if they experience problems with electronic submission of reports. Procedures to submit electronic files will be posted on the ITD internet site in the next few days.

Discussion items were as follows:

- One committee member reported being unable to access the FTP site.
- There was concern expressed that some civil engineering firms are discouraging electronic submission. Firms concerned about electronic submission should contact the Materials Engineer.
- A reminder was given that each company needs to contact ITD to get a username and password. Each company will have its own folder on the FTP site.
- Eventually, all ITD reports will be posted on the ITD internet site and will be accessible to the public.
- It was suggested that submission requirements/instructions be added to the Materials Manual. It was also suggested that electronic submittal of reports be stressed at the monthly ACEC meeting.
- A reminder was given that users must have Adobe Acrobat 7.0 to add review comments to electronic files.

#### **Cost impacts of changes in asphalt cement prices**

Asphalt prices are leveling off at about three times the price of one year ago. Concrete prices are up 30 percent over two years ago. There may be an escalation clause for price increases, including asphalt and fuel increases. These clauses will likely apply only to projects that span two construction seasons.

Unit prices in life cycle analysis programs are out of date. ITD will update these unit prices in the next month and post them on the internet site. A presentation by FHWA on "Perpetual Pavement" was suggested for a future meeting.

It was noted that projects are being reduced and construction schedules being pushed back due to rising construction costs.

#### **SP 509 Non-Structural Concrete**

The document will be revised due to too much testing currently being required. It is difficult for ITD to find providers of non-structural concrete because of the testing requirements and material limitations. The updated version of SP 509 will be distributed to the committee. Questions should be referred to Hq Materials.

### **Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) presentation**

GPR is much more accurate than it has been in the past due to the higher frequency antennae, and data interpretation software is much more user-friendly than previously. This method is safer than extensive drilling, but drilling is still necessary to confirm GPR data. GPR could be a useful tool for checking top to dowels, thickness of CRABS, etc. GPR doesn't work well in clayey soils or where there is groundwater. The thickness that the new GPR will pick up is limited to approximately 24 inches. A combination of high-frequency and low-frequency GPRs has worked well in past studies.

District 4 has purchased a new system that works well at 65 miles per hour, reading every 1-2 feet.

### **Discussion regarding topics to consider at future meetings**

The following are upcoming classes and events:

- Superpave level 3 training class – January 4-5, 2007, at ITD headquarters
- Superpave level 2 training class – January 8-12, 2007, at ITD headquarters
- Asphalt Conference – October 26, 2006, Moscow, ID

Future meeting topics include perpetual pavement, design process for perpetual pavement, and FHWA input on the issue. Another future topic to consider is a report from the test method committee.

The next meeting is scheduled for 12:00 noon on Wednesday, December 6, 2006. The meeting adjourned at 1:45 P.M.